Q. Does your experience change your estimation of the level of personnel and equipment support which would be necessary for a Saudi fleet of AWACS aircraft? Has the Department or the Air Force updated its major 1978 study of Saudi air defense requirements? If so, could any such update or related reports be provided to the Committee?

A. Based upon our experience with operating AWACS aircraft in Saudi Arabia, it is our view that programmed levels of personnel and equipment support normally provided for USAF AWACS operations will adequately support a Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) AWACS operation. The 1978 study conducted by the Air Force did not address the need for an airborne surveillance platform and no update on this study has been made. However, as a result of developments affecting security in the Middle East region and our own professional assessment, the DOD has recognized a need to provide Saudi Arabia with an airborne surveillance platform. The US Air Force recently completed an Airborne Surveillance Feasibility Study for the RSAF, which also recognizes this need and examines the utility and effectiveness of an airborne surveillance platform. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff was informed on 19 March 1981 that an Executive Summary of this Airborne Surveillance Feasibility Study would be available for review at the Pentagon by a member of the Majority and Minority staffs of the Committee at their discretion.